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ANDEAN PACT BOARD OUTLINES FINANCING REQUIREMENTS

PA182025Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 1 PA

[Excerpts] The latest issue of the official newsletter of the Cartagena Agreement board indicates that the industrialization of the Andean Pact member countries will require an investment of approximately \$18 billion by 1988. This is in addition to resources needed to finance trade as well as infrastructure work. For this reason, it adds, financial requirements for integration are one of the most crucial problems the Andean group faces.

Specialists from the Andean countries met recently in Lima to analyze the Andean group's financial problems. The international seminar discussed the following three main topics: financing of industrial projects, financing of trade within the subregion and with third markets, and financing for the physical, educational, social welfare and tourist infrastructure.

On that occasion Dr Rafael Garcia Velasco, acting coordinator of the board, said that substantial progress has been made since the beginning of the integration process 8 years ago regarding several fundamental mechanisms which give rise to the various types of projects and, consequently, to new demands for financing to meet fixed capital investment and working capital requirements.

Garcia set at three the number of leading sources of projects arising from integration which are currently heightening pressures for financing. He mentioned the regional industrial development programs as the major source of pressure.

At the same time, he said, progress in the liberation program [programa de liberacion] and the possibility of opening new trade fields represent a potential demand for short- and medium-term commercial credit.

Garcia stressed that in addition there is an already noticeable need for financing of infrastructure work. He noted that this is a partial list involving only priority programs whose development started with integration. It does not include agricultural, health, educational, housing, potable water, sewage and sanitation projects.

AIR FORCE TO HOLD AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE EXERCISES

PY221433Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 22 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Mirage airplanes of the Argentine Air Force which are stationed at Mariano Moreno Base in Jose C. Paz will carry out exercises with air-to-air missiles in Samborombon Bay. The air force general command reported that the operations will be held 23-24 February.

MALVINAS TALKS WITH BRITISH PREDICTED AS ARDUOUS

PY221510Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0930 GMT 22 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Lima, 21 Feb--Ambassador Paul Medina Munoz, director of the Antarctic and Malvinas Department of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, stated today that the negotiations regarding the sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgia and the South Sandwich group between Argentina and Great Britain will continue a rather long time. The dialog channels continue, however, to be open, he asserted. He said that the negotiations are long and arduous but that they are being held in a conciliatory atmosphere. The results of last week's meeting in Lima will be submitted for the consideration of the two governments to see what decisions will be made later on.

Medina Munoz, who stopped over in Lima during a trip to Canberra, Australia, headed the delegation from his country which participated in the third round of talks with Great Britain regarding the Malvinas Islands. He said that the reaching of an agreement between the two nations is a question of time and moderate optimism. Regarding a new round of talks he stated that no date or time has been fixed. He explained, however, that the declaration issued after the New York meeting in December last year stipulates that a meeting of a political nature between heads of delegations would be held in the second quarter of this year. Medina Munoz also said that Argentine relations with the Malvinas Islands are developing normally.

MID WEEKLY EL NACIONAL TO BEGIN PUBLICATION

PY201424Y Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 18 Feb 78 p 11 PY

[Excerpt] The weekly EL NACIONAL, directed by journalist Angel Mario Herrera, will go on sale 7 March to "represent the national movement." Those responsible for this publication issued a promotional issue yesterday. The weekly, founded by sectors close to the Integration and Development Movement [MID], wants to become "a vehicle of communication for the national movement and a means of analyzing the Argentine process and the world situation." To do this, it "will issue its own opinion and it will publicize the wishes of all social sectors, but it will also be accessible to all political trends involved in the destiny of the country."

CORRECTION TO 17 FEB BRIEF ON GERMAN LOAN

The following correction to the BRIEF entitled "FRG Loan," published in the 17 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, B 2, should be made: first line should read "GDR LOAN--The National Port Administration will sign an agreement with a GDR Government..."

BANZER: ARMY WILL ACCEPT WHOEVER WINS JULY ELECTIONS

LD221153Y Paris IE MONDE in French 18 Feb 78 p 5 ID

[Thierry Maliniak report on undated La Paz interview with President Banzer of Bolivia: "The July Elections Will Be Absolutely Free"]

[Text] La Paz--"We believe that the period of fluctuation in Bolivia--chaos followed by the restoration of order--has now ended. That is why we are determined to go through with the election procedure planned for July. There will be no restrictions: Any citizen will be entitled to run for president of the republic or a seat in Parliament. The president and members of Parliament will take office on 6 August."

General Hugo Banzer received us in the president's palace in La Paz, the Palacio Quemado (burned palace), a name which bears witness to the country's troubled political history. Bolivia is going through a crucial stage at the moment, as was shown by the crisis in January when the opposition took the unprecedented action of starting a hunger strike joined by more than a thousand people which produced the proclamation of a general amnesty on 18 January.

The president stressed the country's present political stability. "Bolivia has given the impression of being a guinea pig. It has been governed by all types of political regimes from the extreme left to the extreme right in quick and disordered succession. This stage is now over. We are therefore convinced that the people will be able to assess the facts and choose the candidate most likely to insure that this stability continues. Having said that, the armed forces are prepared to accept the election result whatever it might be. The candidate elected will naturally be accepted, whatever his political leanings."

A Government Candidate

[Question] The elections will, therefore, be open. But the opposition is disturbed by the presence of one candidate, General Juan Pereda, who is supported by the military government. Is this not likely to cast doubt on the free running of the election?

The president replied: In every country in the world the government in office supports the candidate closest to it. In the United States a Democratic administration would obviously support a Democratic candidate and not a Republican candidate. There is therefore no cause for concern when the same occurs in Bolivia. This is all the more true since I stress that the candidate who receives the most votes will be acknowledged as having won and the armed forces will insure a peaceful transfer of power in August and the security of the constitutional mandate.

[Question] However, does not General Pereda's candidacy give the impression that the armed forces do not really want to hand over power?

[Answer] There is some confusion about this in other countries. General Pereda would, of course, carry on the process which we have followed and which is itself a continuation of the previous reform process such as the one followed by President Villaroel or the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement in the fifties. This process must now be institutionalized and continued in a democratic system. But General Pereda is in no way an army candidate. If General Pereda were elected I would imagine that almost all his ministers would be civilians, with the possible exception of the defense minister. His government would be supported by civilian political groups and not by the armed forces.

[Question] But the present military regime has not really formed any political movement which could be seen as its successor. This makes us wonder what General Pereda's civilian support base would be.

[Answer] We do not feel it is necessary to form a political party. General Pereda represents Bolivian nationalism and there are already parties which stand for this nationalism in the country, for example, the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] or the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] or even the Christian Democratic Party. [answer ends]

The Army's Paternal Role

Some people thought that General Banzer intended to form a political party in 1977. However, he seems to have abandoned the idea for the moment. There is surely no need to recall that the president himself governed with the support of the MNR and FSB from his accession to power in 1971 to November 1974. However, the factions in the two parties which have decided to assume an opposition stance now seem to be in a majority.

[Question] If the political amnesty finally announced on 18 January had been decreed earlier, the country would surely have been spared a crisis which has caused harmful tension.

[Answer] Before the partial amnesty was decreed in December we toured the interior of the country. At all the popular meetings held, including the one in La Paz, we were asked not to allow those responsible for chaos and instability in the past to return as yet. We respected this wish and drew up a list of people excluded from the amnesty. Having said that, we were convinced that this list would be reduced gradually, the president continued. For example, if Mr Siles Suazo had been declared a candidate for the presidency we would obviously have allowed him to return. [answer breaks off]

General Banzer does not disguise his criticisms of the political scene in Bolivia.

[answer resumes] Political life in any country is particularly lively before an election. But here we have the additional problem of exiles returning to the country full of resentment and vindictiveness. Everyone criticizes the government but so far nobody has put forward a concrete program related to the country's real possibilities. The people are aware of this lack of responsibility in the political world. There are now about 30 political parties for an electorate of 2 million people. At the moment the army is probably the only coherent institution in the country.

[Question] In these circumstances, why have elections nevertheless been organized?

[Answer] We could have held elections in 1980 or in the year 2000, but the problem would still be the same. But we have decided to go ahead with the electoral procedure. However, when certain sectarians lose the elections they are bound to accuse us of election fraud. It has been a tradition throughout Bolivian history that all governments which rally the voters are accused of election fraud by the opposition before the election ever takes place. [answer breaks off]

The president ended by describing the role he thinks the army should play in the future. [This role is] to safeguard the country's national heritage, help maintain law and order and contribute to the country's development. That does not mean the country must follow a course set by the army; however, the army has a paternal role to play. Moreover, this is not only the case in Bolivia, as you know, but in the whole of Latin America.

SILES ZUAZO'S RETURN FROM EXILE POSTPONED

PY211430Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Hernan Siles Zuazo, former Bolivian president and leader of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], will not arrive in this country until the end of this month. This report was given by the official party spokesman who stated that Siles Zuazo is now in Caracas together with his [word indistinct] (Abel Ayoroa Argandona). The postponement of his departure for Bolivia is due to purely personal problems.

[Words indistinct] The party is trying to maintain the broad leftist front, composed of Quiroga Santa Cruz's Socialist Party [PS], Lechin's Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left [PRIN], the communist vanguard of the Revolutionary Workers Party [POR] of [name indistinct], the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], the pro-Peking Communist Party, the pro-Moscow Communist Party and [words indistinct].

MINERS CONGRESS URGES BREAK WITH CHILE

PY171812Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1517 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 17 Feb--It was reported here today that some 300 delegates of the Fifth Congress of the National Federation of Mining Cooperatives have urged the Bolivian Government to break diplomatic relations with Chile. The delegates approved by acclamation the petition and asked for "the cancellation of the so-called embarce at Charana between the Bolivian and Chilean presidents which has benefited only the Chilean Government," it was added.

BOLIVIAN STATE PETROLEUM COMPANY: \$29 MILLION PROFIT

PY180202Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The Bolivian State Petroleum Company, YPFB, has announced that its profit last year was \$29 million. The enterprise indicated, however, that this figure must be confirmed after the audit is done.

It was also reported that oil production will slightly increase when Occidental Petroleum begins production in (Camposito), where it will produce approximately 10,000 barrels daily to satisfy current demands.

Texaco, another U.S. enterprise, will also begin production in (Campo de la Vertiente), where approximately 3,000 barrels daily will be produced.

YPFB contributed to the government more than \$88 million during 1977. According to statistics released by the state-owned enterprise, royalties were paid to the departments where the oil was produced and taxes were paid to the nation's general treasury. The departments of Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca and Tarija received \$25.153 million. The country's treasury received \$63,098,853 for taxes: 19 percent for production, 20 percent for exports, 45 percent for price differentials, 12.5 percent [words indistinct] and 3 percent for [words indistinct].

GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE LETELIER ASSASSINATION

PY222022Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 22 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] The Chilean Government has ordered an immediate investigation into the alleged involvement of two members of the Chilean intelligence service in activities which led to the assassination of Orlando Letelier, former Chilean minister and former Chilean ambassador to the United States. As it is known, Letelier was assassinated in Washington in September 1976 by unknown persons who put a bomb in his car.

A report from Washington, issued in the last few hours, states that the U.S. Government has requested Chilean courts to question Juan Williams Rose, 28, and Alejandro Romeral Jara, 26, who according to the report, are reportedly members of either the Chilean Armed Forces or the dissolved National Intelligence Directorate. The Washington report adds that these two persons entered the United States 1 month before the attack of Letelier.

Asked about this report, Hugo Morales, director of the Social Communications Directorate, stated: We were surprised by this report, which is the first reference we have. Therefore, we have started an immediate investigation on these references. Once we have these references and a specific knowledge of the case, more details will be issued to the public about the case.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry denied that members of the Chilean Armed Forces were involved in the attack perpetrated against Orlando Letelier. Asked about it, Defense Ministry officials from the three branches of the armed forces answered that the individuals mentioned in the cable are not, nor have ever been members of any of the branches of the Chilean Armed Forces.

Furthermore, Foreign Ministry sources have confirmed that Chilean Ambassador Jorge Cauas has received in Washington the judicial request but that this request will only be in Santiago in a few days through the diplomatic pouch. Judicial sources have noted that in accordance with present Chilean laws all negotiations made through judicial requests [exhortos] must be exclusively carried out by the Chilean judge who belongs to that jurisdiction and specialization.

The report states the U.S. prosecutor, Eugene M. Popper, will allegedly be attending the questioning of the suspects in the assassination. In this regard, judicial sources believe that this prosecutor will only be able to submit briefs which must be countersigned by a Chilean lawyer. It was clearly stated that the U.S. judge will not be able to question those persons called to testify in this case.

Further Details

PA221839Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1749 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 22 Feb (AFP)--The Chilean Government will investigate the alleged involvement of two army officers in the assassination of former leftist Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, it was reported here today.

The director of Social Communication, Maj Hugo Morales, made the announcement and added that "we have been taken by surprise by that report which is the first we have in this respect." Press agency reports from Washington said that "the Carter administration had asked Chilean justice to interrogate two officers of the Chilean Armed Forces concerning the assassination of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier."

Letelier, who was a cabinet member during the Salvador Allende administration (1970-73), was assassinated in Washington in September 1976. The press agency reports added that "at least one of the officers had met with some of the persons responsible for the murder." The alleged officers were identified by the U.S. Justice Department as Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara.

The Information Directorate of the Chilean Government said that "the government immediately began to collect information on this issue," adding that "as soon as it has something concrete it will make a public announcement."

Meanwhile, sources of the Chilean Defense Ministry pointed out that "the two persons mentioned in the Washington report are not members of any of the four branches of the Chilean Armed Forces."

The Chilean Foreign Ministry has, however, confirmed that the Chilean Embassy in the United States received a request to investigate the two alleged officers of the Chilean Armed Forces.

Chilean justice sources told AFP that "for the time being, the Supreme Court has not taken due notice of the request inasmuch as the court is in recess."

NAVY COMMANDER CITES PRESIDENTIAL PACT AS FORWARD STEP

PY221455Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1330 GMT 22 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 22 Feb--Adm Toribio Merino, Chilean Navy commander and member of the government junta, admitted in a public statement that there is no legal means by which Chile can force Argentina to comply with the arbitration award regarding the Picton, Lennox and Nueva Islands.

In his statement, Admiral Merino emphasized the importance of the act signed by Chilean and Argentine Presidents Gen Augusto Pinochet and Gen Jorge Rafael Videla, respectively, last Monday in Puerto Montt. He insisted, however, on the Chilean position of not negotiating with Argentina the sovereignty of the Picton, Lennox and Nueva islands. He said that the act signed in Puerto Montt is a great step toward peaceful coexistence with those who have questioned for more than 60 years the possession of some territories, thereby permitting the demarcation of maritime borders beyond the territorial limits established by the arbitration award.

POLICEMAN KILLED IN M-19 ATTACK IN BUCARAMANGA

PA181951Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Text] General police headquarters confirmed here at noon today that this morning a cell of the clandestine M-19 movement attacked a police station in the Caldas District of Bucaramanga, taking four M-1 carbines and an official HT radio after killing policeman Victor Hernandez (Blamas). The daring raid by the seditious unit, made up of some 8 men and 2 women, took place at 0330, following anonymous calls to the F-2 announcing that explosive devices had been placed at several radio stations in the capital of Santander Department. Agents on duty at the Caldas District station tried to repel the attack, but were overcome by the assailants, who raised a piece of cloth with the M-19 initials. Agent Victor Hernandez was seriously injured and died on the way to the hospital.

After the attack, the M-19 terrorists took over a milk truck which was making deliveries in the San Francisco District and distributed its supplies among the people in the residential area. Alfonso Pineda, the RCN reporter in Bucaramanga, reported that the assailants tried to broadcast slogans over police loudspeakers.

Security organizations launched an extensive operation to locate the members of the extremist cell. After an intensive hunt, units of the Administrative Department of Security [DAS] today captured three presumed members of the M-19 cell which had early this morning attacked the Caldas District police station. They were captured in the southern portion of the capital of Santander Department.

Hector Gomez, director of Radio Sucesos RCN in Santander, reported that the three presumed extremists were captured by the secret agents near the stadium where they were abandoning a milk truck that they had stolen after the attack on the police station. The agent who was killed in the spectacular shootout early this morning had 20 bullet wounds.

STUDENTS, M-19 MEMBERS CLASH WITH POLICE IN CALI, MEDELLIN

PA230330Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--In El Valle Department, students of the National Institute for Diversified Medium-level Education (INEM) and of the Jose Camacho Institute today abandoned their classrooms, staged serious disturbances in Cali and set fire to a police car. The police reported several persons wounded on both sides. According to a report from the 3d Brigade commander's office, with headquarters in Cali, the clash between students and the police resulted in 108 arrests.

Meanwhile, in Medellin, M-19 members made their appearance in two different places. In the first action, two hooded M-19 members entered a downtown pro-Belisario Betancur center and tried to take some ballots with them, but were forced to flee when a secretary in the premises frustrated their plan.

In another part of the city, seven men broke into a parents meeting, identified themselves as members of the M-19 and harangued the meeting. Then they fled to an unknown destination.

TERRORISTS ATTACK HONDA MAYOR'S HOME

PA212157Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Ibague, Colombia--Victoria (Favon) de Lopez, mayor of Honda, was not injured in this morning's terrorist attack against her home by several unidentified individuals. According to official reports, five individuals in an automobile threw several explosive devices at the house, causing extensive property damage. Shortly after the attack, Patriotic Battalion patrols caught up with the terrorists. During the shooting, one of the alleged urban guerrillas was killed. Another was wounded but managed to escape. So far, no organization has taken credit for the attack on the mayor's house, located in Alto del Rosario.

WAVE OF TERRORISM EXTENDS TO YUMBO MUNICIPALITY

PA201932Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The escalated terrorist activity which began in the capital last week extended today to the municipality of Yumbo, in El Valle, where two medium-powered bombs exploded in the headquarters of the Liberal and Conservative parties, causing extensive damage.

The terrorist action this morning was attributed to the Camilo Torres cell of the self-styled National Liberation Army.

According to police, the explosions destroyed doors and windows in the two headquarters. Similar bombings took place in Bogota last week, when the campaign headquarters of candidates Lleras and Betancur were dynamited, as well as the offices of the German airline Lufthansa.

The police have reported that six persons have been arrested in connection with this latest terrorist action. Police and military authorities have intensified patrols throughout the municipality of Yumbo in order to prevent further terrorist activities.

ARMY REPORTS ON ANTIGUERRILLA CAMPAIGN

PA171943Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--The army today released a bulletin indicating that the campaign against the armed rebels operating in various regions of the country has been successful. The bulletin also states that this is a struggle without quarter in which the guerrillas have been dealt severe blows in the past few days, Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, army commander and acting defense minister, asserted. General Camacho Leyva said that the guerrillas are no longer a threat to the state's institutions and that the struggle against seditious elements will continue until they are definitely wiped out.

POLITICIANS DENOUNCE NEW ELECTIONS LAW

PA221954Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Jaime del Castillo, Liberal Party leader and former mayor of Quito, has denounced the elections law which bars Carlos Julio Arosemena, Revolutionary Nationalist Party leader, from participating as a candidate in the presidential elections. In a message to Arosemena, Del Castillo says: You have been barred from the electoral process by a dictatorial decree issued by those who are annoyed by the courage and honesty which have marked your political career. Rest assured that as your loyal friend I will be at your side in this struggle.

Otto Arosemena Gomez, former president of the republic and founder of the Democratic Institutional Coalition Party, also strongly criticized the measures taken by the military government in the elections law, according to which Asaad Bucaram, leader of the Concentration of Popular Forces, and former presidents of the republic cannot be presidential candidates.

Arosemena Gomez said concerning Bucaram that the armed forces issued a resolution in 1972 regarding the requirements which must be met to be commander in chief of the armed forces. However, he added, the de facto military government should have established the rules of the game from the beginning so that the people and also Bucaram would have known that the 1972 resolution would be used against his candidacy. Arosemena Gomez said that it was unfair to implement this resolution precisely at the last moment when the parties had already nominated their presidential candidates. In any event, the issue should have been submitted to the people during the referendum. As things stand now, Arosemena Gomez indicated, everything seems to indicate that candidates who have no popular support are the ones who are going to be disputing the presidency of the republic.

VELASQUIST DIRECTOR PROTESTS PARTY MEMBER'S ARREST

PA220003Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guayaquil--National Velasquist Director Juan Carlos (Huaime) Estrada today vehemently protested the arrest last week of former party director and former government minister Carlos Cornejo Borje, describing it a cowardly and arbitrary act. He said that Cornejo Borje's arrest not only violates freedom of expression and human rights, but also shows that it was done with malice, because he was arrested just as he was about to go to Buenos Aires on a mission for his party.

The Velasquist national director recalled that no one tried to arrest Dr Cornejo when he attended the recent national convention in Guayaquil and walked freely through the streets and plazas. But when he was about to take the plane to Buenos Aires [words indistinct], Juan Carlos (Huaime) Estrada is demanding the immediate release of his party's former director.

ALFARIST LEADER DISCUSSES PARTY'S ELECTORAL PLATFORM

PA201307Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0125 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 19 Feb (EFE)--Abdon Calderon, leader of the Alfalist Radical Front (FRA), today announced that his electoral platform endorses the thesis of the nullification of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

Calderon, one of Ecuador's six presidential candidates, said that "we will denounce the usurpation under all possible circumstances until international awareness is created and Peru is forced to return our eastern region peacefully to us."

Regarding relations with Peru, the FRA leader said that "they will be those of a neighbor. But cooperation will not be of the type found in the present Riogo Puyango-Tumbez agreement under which we irrigate the Peruvian desert with water from Loja Province."

Abdon Calderon described the Andean Pact as "a form of imperialism," adding that the Cartagena Agreement "violates all theoretical concepts of integration" since it "integrates concurrent economies but not competitive ones." "Colombia and Peru," he explained, "are competitors and as such they seek to absorb us and turn us into their areas of economic influence, that is, into colonies."

Regarding the oil policy, Calderon said he believes all companies should be authorized to explore for and exploit the oil and gas located in the Ecuadorean subsoil and submarine areas "under the control of the hydrocarbons and associated laws."

Commenting on the subject of crude oil, he remarked that his platform calls for a basic incentive for the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation in the areas of exploration and exploitation. "We believe," the FRA leader indicated, "that at least 50 percent of its production should be dedicated to the transformation of crude oil into petrochemical products."

KIDNAPED INDUSTRIALIST'S BODY FOUND

PA180243Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0024 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 17 Feb (EFE)--The decapitated body of an industrialist kidnaped in Quito 2 and 1/2 months ago was found today 360 km from this capital city. Two persons have been arrested for the crime. The body was that of 34-year-old Antonio Briz Lopez, who was kidnaped in Quito last 29 November by a group of unidentified persons. The head was found 15 days after the kidnaping. The kidnaped industrialist's relatives meanwhile had tried to follow the instructions on payment of a \$600,000 ransom.

In the course of investigating the crime the police had arrested Luiz Gomez Izquierdo, leader of the National Democratic Union, some student leaders and a nun from the Catholic University School of Nursing, who took the ransom money to Cuenca.

ECUADOREAN DEBT CONTINUES TO INCREASE

PA181909Y Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 2 PA

[Text] According to official figures provided by the Ecuadorean Central Bank, as of 20 January 1978, the government owed it the sum of 3.786 billion sucres. Between 31 December 1977 and 20 January 1978 the debt, instead of being reduced, increased by 657.5 million sucres.

On 21 January last year, the government owed the Central Bank 3.185 billion sucres, which indicates a rise of 601.1 million in a calendar year.

RADICAL LIBERALS TERM ELECTIONS FRAUD

PY220115Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Feb 78 p 5 PY

[Open letter issued in Asuncion on 18 February 1978 by the Radical Liberal Party [PLR]]

[Text] The first outstanding result of the so-called elections of 12 February is the perpetuation of a system which has imposed its rule for 24 years. This perpetuation threatens to become even more permanent in order to continue the way the system has been operating since its beginning. And now, without a doubt, the system has centered its projections toward a form of tropical totalitarianism--foreseen and protested years ago--which the National Republican Association, the Colorado Party, in its role as democratic entity, cannot or does not want to deter.

Our history and our national foundations confirm that those great and serious problems which afflict us will only be solved through the restitution and enforcement of the state of rights and its democratic practices. But this system, which flagrantly enforces anti-democratic trends, is not tired of boasting that it has obtained more than 89 percent of the votes. We wonder if there is anybody in Paraguay, unless he suffers from political immaturity or serves antipatriotic causes, who is willing to believe that 89 out of 100 voters casted their ballots for the officialist sector!

This indecent and shameful fraud, which was required to try to give convincing evidence of the figures achieved by the official party, was so absurd that no one, even the official party's own followers, could deny it. Many of its spokesmen exceeded themselves in such a way that they were ridiculous: In Puerto Presidente Stroessner there were more votes than the number of registered persons in the local voting registry. In San Estanislao, this rate was near 99 percent. These examples are contrary to any democratic experience in any country since the establishment of the representative form of government and are perfectly assimilated with the famous totalitarianisms; from Hitler and his total assimilation of power, to Stalin, to our Latin America shattered with cases like Duvalier and Fidel Castro.

The persistent use of these procedures seems to strive for the hegemony of a one-party system, something which is a flagrant contradiction to the proclaimed party plurality. The official party's monopoly on government institutions and its subsequent implementation, in addition to the election results, cannot hide an eagerness for this unanimity which is disgusting to democratic morals. This supports the idea that the official party is not discarding the thesis of a one-party system for the future.

The election procedures which were repeated last Sunday will not result in any vital changes in relation to previous elections. What must be noted, however, is the unscrupulous flagrant fraud which disregarded the present and future of the country. Paraguay is not, nor can it be, considered an island in the struggle for human rights and for full democracy, a specific and urgent plan aspired to by all nations, which if achieved would defeat injustices, destroy privileges, end the hateful differences between rich and poor countries and enable the achievement of a world in which the dignity of men and women will be the basis for development supported by humanist scientific and technological policies. But in our country, because of individuals who fear the sovereignty of the people in its real dimensions and projections, there is a denial of opportunities for the reconstruction of Paraguayan democracy, something which will make us join the most noble objectives of this century and will make Paraguayan men and women proud.

The fraud in the so-called elections held last Sunday was confronted by the PLR's own forces, by its members and leaders loyal to the PLR and its political platform [idea:io-programa] and who support the fulfillment of the party's dignified civic duties. Its boards and committees throughout the entire country were aware of a coalition formed by a strange conspiracy to degrade the PLR. There were some Marxist sympathizers who were hiding behind the PLR banner, grouped in an antidemocratic alliance, a sort of "popular front" which tried to annul the judicial basis of the party through a frustrated act of treason. Staunch conservatives were also allied to this "popular front." People who because of their fear to open the gates to rights and social justice for the people, opted to defend a situation which is unacceptable for human dignity. There were also votes in support for the so-called Liberal Party, which allegedly carries different banners [from the PLR] but which is characterized from its very origin by an irrepressible desire for destroying the PLR.

This unfavorable situation which violated fair play and which thwarted the victory of sovereign will solely resides in the people, was accompanied by an absenteeism of voters which is believed to be about 60 percent and which the official party and fraudulent system wanted to hide by increasing voting figures. This absenteeism is undoubtedly based on the skepticism caused by the official party's obviously antidemocratic trends.

These factors, plus the government's donation of thousands of votes, which becomes clear from a simple comparison with earlier ballotings at places where the so-called Liberal Party has never been known to exist, explain the ballot counts attributed to that party which was born from the bosom of the official bureaucracy, and which had an urgent need to meet formal requirements for the satisfaction of foreigners.

On no earlier occasion in our political annals has such a plot aimed at destroying Radical Liberalism been known. The strange electoral alliance we denounce is essentially antidemocratic and essentially antinational. It is not merely a question of favoring a tiny sector, lacking in civic and doctrinary principles of its own, with votes. It goes much deeper. An analysis of the present panorama and the prospects for the future of the fatherland leads to definitions and behaviors which commit the nation ideologically and historically.

We firmly maintain that those who wish to impose antidemocratic practices, with an unmistakable trend toward one of the varieties of tropical totalitarianism, and those who seek to deceitfully increase the numbers of those denying and betraying genuine Paraguayan liberalism, which is identified with the Radical Liberal Party, directly attack the moral heritage of the fatherland. In that sense the 12 February episode has united conservatives of the extreme right with leftists who hide their true intentions and say that they are struggling for a liberation which is nothing but submission to communist totalitarianism under any of its inhuman forms. Indirectly it also united those who mistake their skills in Creole politicking for government responsibility, and destroy genuinely popular currents in a maneuver which may very soon be turned against them.

In the present emergency, the Radical Liberal Party consolidates itself around its program and ideas. It emerges strengthened from the disreputable events we have explained, because over 55,000 ballots belong exclusively to it. They are ballots cast by party members who have overcome the numerous difficulties typical of the fraud, ballots which identify them with what is Paraguayan and democratic, ballots which show the irrevocable decision to continue struggling for a better Paraguay, with unquestioned human rights whose exercise and guarantees are unquestionable, with social justice as the climate for national development and with liberties which are in harmony with the internal and external sovereignty of the Paraguayan nation.

The Radical Liberal citizen knows he has a commitment to the fatherland. His civic spirit demands him to face the enemies of democracy who are also enemies of the nationality. The same civic spirit also calls on him to make the greatest efforts to recover the unity and solidarity of Paraguayan liberalism, which is necessary to give back to our political organization the vigor and effectiveness indispensable for the undertakings to give dignity to our people. With unwavering vigor, with a definitely nationalist doctrine and democratic programs, he will thus render new services to the nation and will find the adequate stimulus to thwart any attempt to throw us into the hands of tropical totalitarianism, procommunist regimes or reactionary oligarchies.

The Radical Liberal Party has triumphed over adversaries and enemies. It has asserted itself, despite the arbitrary mechanisms of the electoral statute, Law No 600, given before the promulgation of the 1967 constitution but preserved to favor government manipulations of the elections. It soundly maintains the civic fertility of hundreds of thousands of party members and offers the citizens, as in its glorious past, a confident doctrine, a wise but honorable leadership, an inflexible and unyielding stand in defense of the fatherland against leftist and rightist totalitarianism.

Have faith and confidence in the Radical Liberal Party. It will never haul down its flags of unconditional effort for and conviction in democracy, as long as it is inspired and guided by the dignity of the fatherland, the dignity of the people, the dignity of the citizen and the dignity of the party.

Asuncion, 18 February 1978

[Signed] Justo Pastor Benitez, president; Tadeo Centurion Bostoa, first vice president; Emilio Loureiro, second vice president; Augusto Caceres Cairasimo, secretary general; Carlos Ferreira Ybarra, treasurer; and Aurelio Ramon Insfran, Ligis Prieto de Centurio, Blas Victor Aquino, Rodolfo Serafini, German Acosta Caballero, Atilio Llano del Puerto, Lidia Eraso de Gonzalez, Emilio Vallejos Cheru, Protacio Roa, Daniel Camarero, Bonifacio Bordon Soto, Victor Emiliano Flores, Victor Figueredo Rojas, Eladio Menoia Alvarenga and Daniel Sosa Arriola

\$23 MILLION 1977 TRADE DEFICIT REPORTED

FY170218Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 Feb 78 p 8 PY

[Summary] According to the latest Central Bank report, there was a trade deficit during 1977 because of an increase in imports. National exports during 1977 totaled \$278,981,000 while imports totaled \$301,737,000, resulting in a \$23 million deficit.

Imports during the months of September and October 1977 passed \$40 million, while during the same months of the previous year imports totaled about \$20 million. Exports during 1976 totaled \$181,834,000 while in 1977 they totaled \$278,991,000. This is an unprecedented increase in exports of almost \$100 million.

Until June 1977 exports totaled \$146,563,000 and imports \$96,030,000, but an increase in imports during the latter half of the year created the trade balance deficit.

The main products exported during 1977 were cotton, which totaled \$80,487,000; industrial seeds such as soybeans, which totaled \$58,828,000; processed meats, \$22,000,000; tung oil, \$21,986,000; lumber, \$19,912,000; and tobacco, which totaled \$13,658,000.

ELECTORAL COURT SUSPENDS THREE PARTIES' REGISTRATION

PA221348Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0133 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 21 Feb (AFP)--The National Electoral Court today agreed to suspend the registration of three political parties, just as it had done with the Communist Party, for the June constituent assembly elections. The three parties are the Socialist Revolutionary Party (socialist left), the Reformist Democratic Party (rightists) and the Popular Student, Peasant, and Workers Front (Maoist). These parties do not have the required number of members or departmental committees.

These three political groups, as well as the communists (orthodox), will have 10 days to correct the deficiencies noted by the court, the top authority on electoral matters. Fernando Belaunde's Popular Action Party, the Workers and Peasants National Front (center-left) and Christian Democratic are ready to participate in the election.

Meanwhile, the Peruvian Democratic Movement (right), Haya de la Torre's American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] (center left), the Popular Christian Party (liberal Christian), National Union (right), the Popular Democratic Union (Marxist leftist) and the Socialist Popular Action Party (left) have been provisionally registered. If no deficiencies are found against these parties, their registration will become definite.

GOVERNMENT ROLE IN AGRARIAN REFORM REJECTED

PA180141Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1722 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 17 Feb (AFP)--The Popular Christian Party [PPC] has asked Peru's military government "to take its hands out of the agrarian reform" and confirm the holding of constituent elections next June. The request was made by PPC leader Luis Bedoya in a speech last night in Arequipa, located about 1,000 km south of Lima, during a party rally attended by an estimated 30,000 people. Saying that he had chosen the agrarian reform theme for his speech because the Arequipa peasants "did not accept this fraud," Bedoya asked the government "to take its hands out of that reform," and turn the land over to the peasants. After noting that the land had been collectivized in the Yugoslav and Soviet fashion, he said that the farmers now work not to pay for the expropriated land but to earn profits for the bureaucrats.

He then asked the military government to clear up doubts regarding the holding of the June elections. He also said that the economic crisis runs the risk of becoming a social crisis capable of promoting an outbreak of violence which will give the government an excuse to suspend the electoral process.

Referring then to groups of counterdemonstrators he lamented the fact that free men are not protected because the armed forces, with their silence, are defending abuses. He asked the people of Arequipa to once again point the way for the country.

In an earlier news conference he had defended the independence of the forthcoming constituent assembly and said that "we do not want to be treated like puppies and be forced to lick the sugar coating of reforms in order to be able to convene the assembly."

INTERIOR MINISTER URGES WORKERS TO IGNORE STRIKE CALL

PA222353Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1602 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 22 Feb (AFP)--Peruvian Interior Minister Gen Luis Cisneros today appealed to the working class not to support the 4-day general strike that has been decreed by leftist trade unions.

The Communist General Confederation of Workers of Peru has scheduled a strike for 27 and 28 February, whereas another group of federations comprising the united struggle command has scheduled one for 1 and 2 March. The strike goals are to obtain the reinstatement of several thousands of workers who were dismissed for participating in a general strike in July, to gain salary increases, to bring about the repatriation of deportees and to gain other labor benefits.

Cisneros said that the movement is part of the communist struggle to replace the current leaders, who have been accused of being revisionists, with more radical ones.

He said that what is required at this time of economic crisis is harder work and more production. But if this is not achieved, then the time will come to build a great national front with those wishing to reactivate the country as opposed to those who seek to destroy the country's economy.

Saying that it is not possible to rehire the dismissed workers because their positions have been filled by others, Cisneros ended by saying that the government will give all necessary guarantees to the workers and businessmen who work on the days set for the strike.

ARGENTINE GROUP ARRIVES FOR SAN MARTIN DAY

PY211730Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish KTCP GMT 21 Feb 78 PY

[Text] A delegation of the Argentine Army historical regiment called the Gen Jose de San Martin Cavalry arrived in this city to participate in the ceremony marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of liberator Gen Jose de San Martin. The delegation is headed by Lt (Alejandro Jose Deberina).

Gen Roberto Viola, Argentine Army chief of staff, will arrive for the same purpose next Friday. General Viola will head the Argentine mission which will take part in the anniversary celebration on Saturday, 25 February. Similar Argentine missions have gone to Mexico, the United States, France and the Dominican Republic to celebrate the event.

(Jose Deberina) said: "Our presence is a reaffirmation of the historic links which unite our brother nations through the figure of Gen Jose de San Martin.

WIDESPREAD STUDENT DISTURBANCES REPORTED IN CARACAS

Police Break Up Demonstrations

PA222305Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas--The metropolitan police today dispersed student demonstration attempts in various sectors of Caracas. One demonstration was broken up at the Fermin Toro High School where the police reported four arrests. A student demonstration was dispersed in front of the Perez de Leon Hospital, where the students gathered to express their solidarity with Hipolito Matute, a student patient in the hospital, who suffered a fractured skull when he fell from the rooftop of the [word indistinct] technical school in Petare. Other demonstration attempts were dispersed at the Francisco Fajardo High School, in the 23 Enero District [words indistinct] the students stoned a police helicopter on an inspection tour of the area.

Meanwhile, in the afternoon, a member of the specialized brigade of the metropolitan police, identified as Roberto Hernandez, 27, was hit on the head with a rock. He was admitted to the hospital with a fractured skull, according to police reports.

More Student Disturbances

PA230250Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0210 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 22 Feb (EFE)--With a toll of at least 84 injured and 108 arrested, high school students today caused new disturbances in Caracas for the third consecutive day. Although the demonstrators give the death a week ago in San Felipe of their fellow student Carlos Alberto Rivero Pacheco, 14, as the reason for the disturbances, government spokesmen today blamed the ultraleftwing and enemies of democracy for them.

The disorders broke out in downtown Caracas when a group of students headed by hooded men attacked a beer company delivery truck and opened a bottle throwing attack against passing vehicles. Three Molotov cocktails were hurled against a police car, and the agents who came to restore order were able to arrest four of the hooded leaders. A youth was wounded in the legs with plastic pellets. Disturbances were also recorded in three other parts of the capital, as well as in the nearby town of Caricuao. The demonstrators and the police expected these actions after yesterday's incidents, when a 15-year-old student fractured his skull in a fall from the rooftop of a school. The student is under treatment in a local hospital with the aid of an artificial heart. [as received]

Venezuelan Justice Minister Juan Martin Echeverria today pointed out that enemies of the democratic system and common criminals have infiltrated the "good-faith demonstrators" for the purpose of disrupting order and looting stores. Martin Echeverria said he hopes the tension will subside considerably when it is announced that the police have solved the San Felipe Case.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Raul Arcile, the suspected murderer of student Rivero Pacheco, the organization secretary of the ruling Democratic Action Party in Yaracuy State, has been hospitalized in a psychiatric clinic at Nirgua as a result of a nervous disorder.

The director of the Military Intelligence Services, Brig Gen Guillermo Cuartin Yanez, revealed that the disorders can, for the time being, be controlled by the police without military assistance. General Cuartin Yanez blamed the situation on the extreme leftwing groups "Ruptura," "CLER" and "CLP."

He said there are some prisoners with records of subversive activities who participated in disturbances also reported in Barquisimeto, Maracaibo, Puerto Cabello, Barcelona, Guarenas, Valencia and San Felipe.

Meanwhile, Miranda State Governor Gaston Navarro Dona reported that four important agitators were captured in Guarenas and noted that during election time the extremist groups engage in antigovernment campaigns and sometimes take advantage of student incidents.

Student Killed

PA230432Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0412 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 22 Feb (AFP)--A student was killed here tonight under still unexplained circumstances when a group of students was apparently organizing a protest demonstration over the death of another student in San Felipe on 14 February.

It was learned that student groups had gathered in front of a high school in western Caracas. At approximately 2000 (0000 GMT) a shot was fired from an automobile. The shot hit student Pablo Perez in the chest and killed him. Observers believe that this incident, 9 days after the death of student Carlos Rivero in the western Venezuelan city of San Felipe, will surely revive the wave of protests and student demonstrations which have hit the country for the past week.

In Caracas there was a renewal of protests over the death of Rivero in several high schools, although they were not as violent as those which had occurred yesterday.

In the interior, demonstrations were staged in the cities of Cumana, Punto Fijo, Valera, Barinas and San Juan de los Morros. In San Juan de los Morros, the students set fire to the automobile of the region's governor.

Student Carlos Rivero was shot to death on 14 February under still unclear circumstances while a student demonstration was passing in front of the regional headquarters of the ruling Democratic Action Party.

MIRANDA AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATE MONDAY'S GUARENAS INCIDENTS

PA230040Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Feb 78 P

[Text] Caracas--The Miranda State authorities today continue investigating the Guarenas incidents that occurred last Monday, when the regional offices of Democratic Action (AD) and COPEI were set afire and several vehicles burned and damaged.

The governor of the state, meanwhile, confirmed the arrest of four persons apparently involved in subversive activities. Governor Gaston Navarro said the prisoners, connected with the groups Ruptura and the Student Movement of Unity with the People (Movimiento Estudiantil de Unidad con el Pueblo--MEUP), had infiltrated the student and labor groups.

Meanwhile, the military intelligence directorate blamed the members of Ruptura, [words indistinct], for the recent disturbances in the metropolitan sector.

REPORTS ON UNPAID FOREIGN DEBT DENIED

PA221354Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1224 GMT 21 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 20 Feb (VENPRES)--Venezuelan Finance Minister Luis Jose Silva Luongo stated here today that at this moment Venezuela is not behind in the payment of a single penny of its foreign financial commitments. The minister made this statement to the communications media in order to clarify a news report published in one of the capital's dailies, which quotes a statement allegedly made by the president of the Association of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry [FEDECAMARAS] according to which the national government failed to pay 6 billion bolivares on its foreign debt in 1977 as a result of budget errors.

The finance minister explained that the report is the result of a mix up and that contrary to what the report states, the country last year made payments on the principal of its debts, which resulted in an important savings in interest that did not have to be paid. "The president of FEDECAMARAS and myself regret," the minister said, "the confusion that there has been between the 6 billion bolivares of public credit obtained last year to finance industrial and infrastructure projects being presently carried out and an alleged foreign debt that Venezuela has not paid."

"On the contrary," Minister Silva added, "at this moment, Venezuela is not behind in the payment of a single penny of the public credits that it has negotiated abroad. It actually has a surplus payment of the foreign debt. In agreement with the general comptroller's office, we made advance payments on the principal in order to save on interest. This is in line with a healthy policy of adequate control over the application of the resources of the national treasury."

GOVERNMENT SEES NO NEED TO REEVALUATE BOLIVAR

PA181605Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0250 GMT 18 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 17 Feb (EFE)--Venezuelan Finance Minister Luis Jose Silva Luongo said today that Venezuela will firmly uphold its present monetary policy and will not reevaluate upward or devalue the bolivar during the remainder of the present constitutional period of about 1 year. "We have a dollar exchange rate (4.30 bolivares to the dollar since 4 years ago) which we are not going to change for obvious economic and financial reasons," he said.

Silva stressed that the country's economic and financial situation is perfectly sound and under control, and that the government is closely watching it with absolute seriousness.

In recent days, representatives of the Venezuelan private sector showed signs of unrest in view of the drop in Venezuela's oil exports, saying that it would be advisable to reevaluate the bolivar upward. The entrepreneurs' proposal was also based on the dollar's difficult situation on the international monetary markets.

MILITARY VOWS TO UPHOLD CONSTITUTION, SUPPORT PRESIDENT

PA201946Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1722 GMT 20 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 20 Feb (EFE)--The Mexican Army reiterated its respect for the constitution and expressed support for the reforms launched by President Jose Lopez-Portillo's government, it was reported here today. During the celebration of Armed Forces Day, the Mexican military also stressed its "deep, conscious loyalty" to the country's institutions. Gen Mario Oliver, chief of General Staff of the National Defense Secretariat, said that "we will not ask for any service which does not pertain to us and will not fulfill any assignment which is not entrusted to us." Speaking on behalf of the military during the celebration, Oliver added that "we are not by any means a rich army, but we are an organized, coherent and strong body indivisibly devoted to the goals and precepts of the constitution, which is the voice of the republic turned into law." He stressed that the more critical the circumstances of the country, the more firm, united and devoted to republican institutions the army will be. Oliver said also that President Lopez-Portillo "may go on calmly, firmly and even optimistically with the transformations and adjustments he is trying to carry out through his political reform, his administrative efficiency, his alliance for production and all other measures aimed at achieving social improvements."

In turn, the military was praised by President Lopez-Portillo, who described the military as a "force of peace and hope." He added that "the army and the constitution are the historical response to dictatorship and the need to guarantee the nation's development within a legal and social order at the service of the majority."

During the same ceremony, General and Senator Graciliano Alpuche denied that the Mexican Armed Forces have foreign advisers. "They have never, do not now and will never have them. Our army is self-sufficient."

NATION TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN BASIC PETROCHEMICALS BY 1979

Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2118 GMT 20 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Feb (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) has stated that next year Mexico will achieve self-sufficiency in basic petrochemical products and will have surpluses for exports. The statement added that abundant availability of hydrocarbons and the high level of qualified PEMEX personnel will permit Mexico to be among the petrochemical producing countries of the world.

The petrochemical industry in Mexico began in the decade of the 50's with the installation of small plants, whose main purpose was to provide substitutions for imports of (formaldenide), some plastic resins and ammonia. In 1959 Mexico made an important advance with the introduction of (dodecylbenceno) into the market, a basic raw material used in manufacturing household detergent.

PEMEX added that from those years to now, the Mexican petrochemical industry has made great advances and presently supplies 60 percent of domestic demand.

MOISES TORRIJOS AGAIN DENIES DRUG TRAFFIC INVOLVEMENT

PA221400Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1305 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Madrid, 22 Feb (EFE)--Panamanian Ambassador to Spain Moises Torrijos today rejected charges made yesterday against him by the U.S. Senate allegedly involving him in drug trafficking. "It is said that I took drugs to the United States. The curious thing is that I have never visited that country," EFE news agency was told this morning by the diplomat, who is a brother of the Panamanian chief of government.

Moises Torrijos said the charge "is absolutely false and has a political, not a legal, basis." He added: "It appears to be directed against me but in fact it is a charge against the Panamanian regime which they want to discredit so as to damage its credibility in view of the canal treaties' ratification."

As proof of the "falseness of the charges" the Panamanian ambassador, the dean of the diplomatic corps in Spain, said: "I have never visited the United States. I was only in transit in Miami and New York in 1965 during a visit I made as a newsman to Europe. I have never been to the United States after that." He said he had often been to the Canal Zone, which is under U.S. jurisdiction, and was never bothered in any way. He also pointed out that his country house is on the other side of the canal and for this reason he had to cross the Canal Zone twice or three times weekly. "I have always been treated very well by U.S. authorities," he noted.

"The charges by some U.S. senators are a maneuver against the treaties' ratification," Moises Torrijos repeated.

Concluding, the ambassador said he had no intention of going to Panama in the immediate future and that he would remain in Madrid until the end of his diplomatic mission.

U.S. SENATE ABSOLVES TORRIJOS OF DRUG CHARGES

PA222317Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Yesterday, the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence absolved Gen Omar Torrijos of the drug trafficking charges raised by U.S. conservative groups who oppose the new Panama Canal treaties. The report of the intelligence committee was presented by its chairman, Senator Birch Bayh, whom we see in this photograph to the left of Senator Robert Dole, one of the main opponents of the treaties.

The text [as heard] of the report states: Our investigations have not disclosed any evidence which could be used in court. The charges against General Torrijos are based on secondhand reports that are not usually reliable. Senator Birch Bayh added that there is no evidence either on the charges of narcotics trafficking, which may have affected the final results of the negotiations of the new treaties.

The Senate met yesterday behind closed doors to discuss the charges against the Panamanian chief of government and his relatives, at the request of the group of senators opposed to the treaties. Senator Charles Percy, Republican from Illinois, described the closed-door meeting as a desperate maneuver to prevent the ratification of the treaties. Percy announced that he will vote in favor of the new agreements. Senator Frank Church, Democrat from Idaho, commented ironically that the senators had never considered General Torrijos to be a saint, but this has nothing to do with the canal treaties.

The U.S. Department of Justice yesterday repeated the fact that General Torrijos has never been investigated on drug issues and described rumors of this type as being without substance. According to U.S. Senate rules, what is discussed in a closed-door session can be made public only if the senators themselves vote to make it public. However, a Senate official last night admitted that when something is said to 100 senators it is very difficult to keep it secret. The same official said that one can take bets on how many minutes it takes before what the Senate discusses behind closed doors is leaked.

Radio Reports on Findings

PA221818Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee has declared that reports of the participation of leader Omar Torrijos and his relatives in drug trafficking were based on second hand sources of doubtful reliability. In the secret session held by the Senate committee, its chairman, Senator Robert Byrd, said the committee had not found evidence that the matter could affect the final terms of the new Panama Canal treaties. Democratic Senators Frank Church and Alan Cranston said not enough evidence had been found to condemn the new treaties or jeopardize General Torrijos' integrity. Republican Senator Robert Dole, who proposed the secret session, said that nevertheless the report will have sufficient impact. He asked the Senate to review the texts of the treaties again before proceeding to vote on their ratification.

CORREGIMIENTO ELECTION LAW ISSUED 10 FEB

PA181721Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Feb 78 pp 1-A, 4-A PA

[Excerpt] "Every citizen has the right to nominate himself freely as a candidate for corregimiento representative or alternate if he meets the requirements for the post," says Law No 5 issued by the National Legislative Council on 10 February, which "issues regulations on electoral questions and the popular elections."

The law, which was published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE on 14 February, says that persons nominating themselves as candidates for corregimiento representatives or alternates cannot hold positions of authority and jurisdiction and must certify that they have been residents for at least 1 year of the corregimiento where they are nominated. The legal document contains 71 articles and states that there will be up to five candidates for each corregimiento. If more than this number are nominated, those with the greater number of registered supporters will be declared candidates. In case of a tie, the candidacy will be given to those registering first.

The regulation of the coming August elections will renew in its entirety the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives. This assembly in turn will elect a new president and vice president of the republic for a 6-year term. The regulation provides strict penalties for persons who obstruct the elections or the voting of any citizen in any way. It provides strict penalties also for government officials who are charged with certifying candidate applicants and do not perform their duties within the time prescribed by the law.

DOMINICAL COMMENTS ON ELECTORAL LAW FOR AUGUST ELECTIONS

PA201657Y Panama City DOMINICAL in Spanish 19 Feb 78 p 5-A PA

[Editorial: "Final Decision"]

[Text] The National Legislative Council on 10 February passed the law on electoral matters and popular elections. The law published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE has 71 articles regulating the August 1978 elections for the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives.

The National Legislative Council also passed the electoral tribunal organic law, which deals with the revocation of mandate and establishes and regulates the Electoral Tally Board.

In this manner and according to Chapter [Capitulo] 2 of the constitution, electoral legal devices have been established containing the norms of voting as the duty and right of citizens and subsequent regulations.

It also complies with Chapter 3 on the electoral tribunal and the fifth title containing dispositions regarding the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives elections.

On issuing these laws, the government has taken what it considers a final decision regarding the electoral process, its organization and regulation. In this way it ends speculation about a possible opening for the formation of political parties by maintaining the system of personal, free and direct nomination, granting all citizens in the country the right of free nomination without having to belong to political groups of any kind.

It also maintains in effect Article 122, which establishes that "the law will regulate voting on the basis that it is free and universal, direct or indirect, and that each vote is equal and secret."

As it is generally known, spokesmen of political parties have been pressuring the government to approve some measure allowing the reorganization of political groups, so that as such they can participate in the August general elections.

The issuing of these laws, which underwent lengthy studies and consultations, put an end to those speculations, at least temporarily. The authorities consider that it is not prudent or convenient to call a constituent assembly or a referendum or to have any changes in the present electoral or legislative systems represented by the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives together with the National Legislative Council. The August elections will be carried out according to the principles established in the 1972 constitution.

GOVERNMENT RELEASES DETAILS OF 1978 BUDGET

PA180156Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Feb 78 pp 1-A, 10-A PA

[Text] Planning and Economic Policy Minister Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta said during a news conference that the key to our economic growth lies in increasing and diversifying our exports, which in turn will provide us with the key to economic independence.

The news conference, one of the most heavily attended so far this year, was held at the ministry's conference room. Its main purpose was to inform the country and the communications media about the approval of the central government's 1978 revenues and operating and public investments budgets, as well as to report on the execution of the 1977 budget and on the most significant achievements of the revolutionary government's budget activities in the past 9 years.

According to Minister Barletta, the budget tries to respond to our country's social and infrastructural needs as well as to the various problems that the citizens are trying to resolve.

The central government's budget for the fiscal period 1 January to 31 December 1978 has been fixed at 537,952,212 balboas. This is in accordance with the austerity policies that the government has been implementing for the past 3 years and is a result of worldwide inflation-recession, which naturally has affected our country.

Barletta stressed that not only is it necessary to increase and diversify our exports but also our markets in all countries of the world, because in that way we will increase our economic independence.

Breaking down the abundant written material released to the social communications media by Migdalia Fuentes, chief of the ministry's Public Relations Department, we are publishing part of the communique issued on the new budget:

Press Communique

The national government has released important information in connection with the central government's revenues and operating budget for the 1978 fiscal period, the public investments budget for the same period and the execution of the 1977 budget. It has also reported on the most significant achievements of the revolutionary government's budget activities over the past 9 years.

This information has been supplied by the financial commission, which is made of the finance and treasury minister, the general manager of the National Bank of Panama, the comptroller general, the chief of government's fiscal adviser and the planning and economic policy minister.

A. Government's 1978 Revenues and Operating Budget

According to the financial commission, the central government's 1978 budget has the following significant characteristics:

1. The central government's budget was approved in accordance with the rules calling for balance between revenue and expenses.
2. The ordinary revenues budgeted for the central government and the autonomous state agencies are not based on new taxes or surcharges other than those already in effect.
3. Except for the temporary expenses caused by the emergency plan, all the ordinary or operational expenses of the central government and the other public agencies follow the austerity policy implemented in connection with these expenses in recent years, stressing the need to revise the programs already underway and to reorganize the various institutions' operations and personnel in order to guarantee a better use of the existing resources.

B. Regarding the Figures Budgeted and Approved by Law

1. The central government's ordinary revenues have been projected at 390.7 million balboas and ordinary expenses at 352.1 million balboas. The remainder will help amortize the central government's public debt.

In accordance with a program of operations and in order to respond to our country's needs for goods and services, the government has outlined a number of significant objectives for the various state institutions. These include:

In the area of agriculture and cattle breeding, there are plans to continue with the technical assistance program for peasants, to strengthen the agricultural-livestock engineering program and to create the Milk Development Directorate.

In the area of education, 532,920 students will receive attention from the Education Ministry. Of these, 415,237 are at the grade school level and 116,683 at the high school level, including those receiving technical-professional training or training to become teachers. Attending to them will be 25,547 educators. Activities involving the maintenance and repair of schools will also be performed. Furthermore, with the financial aid provided the university, plus its own resources, that institution will be able to enroll some 38,365 students, setting the average cost per student at 496 balboas.

In order to fulfill its promise to accelerate the process of incorporating the poorer sectors, particularly those in the rural areas, into the health services while at the same time guaranteeing the quality and efficiency of those services and reducing the morbidity and mortality rates among mothers and children, the government has defined the following objectives in the area of health:

To provide 1.2 million consultations for children;

To provide 199,000 consultations for mothers;

To provide 1.5 million consultations for adults;

To provide odontological treatment for 528,000 patients;

983,000 vaccines will be administered in accordance with the programs for mothers, children and adults;

91,000 house calls will be made and the environmental health program will be intensified by spraying houses with propoxur;

Some of the Public Works Ministry's most important objectives in the area of transportation include: providing maintenance to 2,297 km of roads, 133.8 km of the Pan-American Highway, 200 km of streets in Panama and 50 km of streets in Colon.

Within the budget's limitations, special care has been taken to strengthen the government's activities in the area of commerce and industry through the Commerce and Industry Ministry. In this area, some of the goals outlined include: issuance of 2,152 new commercial and industrial licenses, registration of 980 trademarks, inspection of 2,880 establishments and examination of patent registries, trademarks and so forth. There are also plans to perform 5,260 analyses of mineral resources and 285 analyses of marine resources. Finally, the Foreign Trade Institute has been created. Its purpose is to develop foreign trade and strengthen the balance of payments through the development and diversification of exports and the promotion of investments.

Central Government's Ordinary Budget for the Year 1978

Ministerial expenses	(In thousands of balboas)
Assembly of representatives	2,654
Legislative commission	682
General comptrollership	4,290
Presidency of the republic	2,951
Government and justice	41,976
Foreign relations	6,537
Finance and treasury	7,050
Education	77,036
Commerce and industries	2,600
Public works	17,100
Agricultural development	10,972
Price regulation office	659
Health	35,344
Labor and social welfare	2,912
Housing	5,000
Planning and economic policy	2,394
Judicial branch	2,656
Public ministry	1,831
Electoral tribunal	3,351
Subtotal	227,995

Public Debt Service

External	122,195
Internal	21,940
Minus: Planned economies	(6,000)
Subtotal	138,135
13th Month for public officials	9,500
Ordinary transferences	46,418
Subtotal	55,918
Total ordinary expenses	422,048

PANAMENIST PARTY HOLDS CONVENTION IN COLON

PA201906Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 20 Feb 78 pp 1, 14 PA

[Text] The convention of the Panamenist Party was held yesterday in Colon in a calm atmosphere. It was attended by over 2,500 persons from all areas of the country and from various political parties.

A total of 64 buses came from the interior and Panama City. The largest delegation was that of Chiriqui Province.

Yodalis Arosemena delivered the most vitriolic and personalized speech. Other orators delivered shorter speeches, but the list was so long that participants began to leave. According to political analysts, the turnout was less than the organizers had expected. They believed that there would be a larger turnout than in Santiago in view of Colon's difficult economic situation. The experts said that the people acted as mere spectators. Most speakers tried to encourage Colon inhabitants to participate in the convention by taking advantages of the difficult situation faced by the people on the Atlantic coast, but the people limited themselves to watching the events. It was reported that a dance group [comparsa] was organized at the close of the convention to get the people to participate. Local authorities acted impartially and offered all possible cooperation to the organizers of the convention.

COSTA RICA

CARAZO DECLARED PRESIDENT-ELECT; RESIGNS PARTY POST

PA230049Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Statement by Rodrigo Carazo Odio on being declared president-elect of Costa Rica by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal on 22 February at the Supreme Electoral Tribunal building--recorded]

[Text] Today the Supreme Electoral Tribunal has brought into being something that is of great meaning to the country's institutional structure: the transfer of power, as specified in the constitution, to the person elected by popular vote. More than anything else, this action confirms the most sacred traditions and the most profound values of the Costa Rican people. The simplicity of our democracy is what brings forth its greatness: the expression of the people's will.

This ceremony, because of its solemnity and great significance for each of us, reflects the living force of the simplicity of our democracy, and the majesty that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal is the will of the people. It is an expression of deep respect for the decision of the majority.

I beg God to look with kindness on our work. I also wish to thank God for having been born, for being alive and for being able to give part of my life to this country, to Costa Rica. All the values that make up our spirit and form our habits and inspire our behavior are present at this moment when I ask God to guide our steps and thank Him for this extraordinary moment that undoubtedly will be important to the family first and then the meaning of the tradition, the simplicity and the majesty of our institutions.

I now wish to state to you my heartfelt gratitude, to make the solemn commitment to do what we all desire in Costa Rica and to assure you that those who represent the people through democratic institutions will receive the utmost support from our government. Thank you very much.

Abandons FRD Position

PA221425Y San Jose Radio Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Costa Rican President-elect Rodrigo Carazo Odio has irrevocably resigned as president of the superior executive council of the Democratic Renovation Party [PRD]. The resignation, dated 13 February, was addressed to Juan Jose Echeverria Brealy, secretary general of the unity party. [as heard]

GUATEMALA

DEFENSE MINISTER STATES ARMY'S POSITION ON ELECTIONS

PA230424Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0255 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Feb (AFP)--The Guatemalan Army today stated in an official communique its position regarding the forthcoming 5 March elections.

Defense Minister Gen Otto Spiegler Noriega pointed out on behalf of the armed institution that "it is not up to the army to oversee the carrying out of normal elections." He said that it is not the army who determines who will occupy a post for which a candidate must be elected by popular vote and that this policy applies to all members of the army.

Spiegler said that the constitution establishes the norms for the electoral process. He advised the Guatemalan people not to let themselves be deceived by "statements and views according to which the army is taking positions not within its purview."

Political observers note that this declaration by the armed institution dispells the idea that one of the presidential candidates is supported by the government and the army.

GOVERNMENT REJECTS EMPLOYEES' STRIKE ULTIMATUM

PA230336Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0305 GMT 23 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Government today rejected an ultimatum from its 85,000 employees who threatened to go on strike tomorrow unless they received 50-percent salary increases today. Roberto Giron Lemus, public relations secretary of the presidency, said that the executive branch cannot immediately agree to approve the requested increase, which is under study by the Finance Ministry. At a news conference the official said that the government accepts no deadlines, such as that established by the employees, because there are norms which must be observed in granting salary increases.

The Emergency Committee of Guatemalan Government Workers had given the government a deadline for granting the salary increases, which expired this afternoon. The committee added that unless the deadline were met, it would declare a nationwide general strike of public services starting tomorrow, Thursday.

Giron Lemus said that the government will take all the necessary measures under the law to guarantee the operation of public services. He added that President Kjell Laugerud's administration has granted salary increases to 151,484 government employees at a cost of \$99 million.

HONDURAS

LA TRIBUNA REPORTS MELGAR CASTRO-ROMERO SUMMIT POSTPONED

PA230418Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2240 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The local newspaper LA TRIBUNA reported today that the proposed meeting between Honduran chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro and Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humerto Romero has been postponed. The paper attributed the report to a Honduran presidential palace source. It added that the meeting, which was also to be attended by the wives of the heads of state, might be held in April if circumstances are right.

Official reports from El Salvador said that a presidential meeting would be held in Guatemala in March as a result of an agreement between the two heads of state last October.

LA TRIBUNA added that General Melgar Castro has received official invitations to visit Venezuela and Panama in the near future.

OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON TROOPS ALONG NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA221437Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Lt Col Erin O'Connor Bain, secretary of state for information, culture and tourism, said here today that the troops stationed along the border with Nicaragua "are not there for any repressive purposes."

The military officer stated that those troops are performing the duties of any army, "such as to prevent guerrillas from neighboring countries from using national territory as a haven for their operations and to prevent troops from another country from entering national territory in pursuit of guerrillas and affecting Honduran nationals who live in the border areas."

The secretary of state noted that "Honduras not only has troops along its borders with Nicaragua, but also along its borders with other neighboring countries because the army has the duty of safeguarding sovereignty and territorial integrity."

He recalled that during his 31 December 1977 address chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro reiterated "the determination of the armed forces government not to allow Honduran territory to be used as a guerrilla haven or hunting ground by armies of other countries." Thus, the military government answered charges made last night in the chief of state's Advisory Council by university representative Carlos Ariza that the Honduran Army is conducting maneuvers along the border with Nicaragua, apparently in support of the Nicaraguan regime.

"The affairs of the Nicaraguans should be resolved by the Nicaraguans. We Hondurans abide by the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other nations," Lieutenant Colonel O'Connor Main remarked.

On previous occasions the chief of state's advisers have reported Nicaraguan National Guard forays into Honduran border towns in pursuit of Sandinist guerrillas and certain outrages against Honduran nationals.

The secretary of state gave assurance that "Honduran citizens can remain calm. The army is on a state of alert, and our territory will remain neutral along with its soldiers, who will simply insure the security of their fellow citizens within the national territory."

NICARAGUA

DISTURBANCES IN MASAYA CONTINUE; FIRES REPORTED

PA221529Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1440 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Masaya, Nicaragua, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Groups of persons who last night demonstrated against General Somoza's government set fire to a house owned by the secretary of congress president Cornelio Hueck.

According to reports obtained at the scene of the events, the demonstrators hurled Molotov cocktails near the house, which had been vacated a few hours before by Mrs Vilma Bercios de Moreira. Flames began to come from the house following the explosions of the bombs, which were heard several blocks away. No one was injured but pets inside the house burned to death.

The work of firemen in this city (east) of Managua was slow and difficult because the demonstrators tried to prevent them from putting out the blaze. Firemen were even insulted and stoned. Troops which had reinforced the local garrison withdrew when the demonstrators approached Mrs Moreira's residence, thus averting worse consequences.

Mrs Moreira's house was set ablaze following a demonstration to mark the 44th anniversary of the death of guerrilla Cesar Augusto Sandino. This demonstration was dispersed by military patrols using tear gas. Several demonstrators said that the tear gas bombs were dropped from a helicopter that was flying over the city at the same time that the patrols blocked the demonstration in San Sebastian District.

As a result of the tear gas, the local Red Cross took four persons to San Antonio Hospital, including a 26-year-old girl who was apparently suffering from the effects of the tear gas. Eight Red Cross brigades composed of volunteers reported for work in view of the emergency and assisted several persons who were not identified because there was no need to hospitalize them.

Following the demonstration, calm returned to Masaya for some time, but late at night the demonstrators returned to the streets to burn Mrs Moreira's residence and to set off Molotov cocktails at various places in the city.

Last night Masaya was the scene of several acts of violence. Demonstrators tried to burn the Guadalajara theatre by setting it on fire with Molotov cocktails. A taxi was also set on fire in the city.

IDB OFFICIAL'S CAR BOMBED IN MANAGUA

PA221658Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1435 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--A powerful terrorist bomb exploded yesterday afternoon in the Camino de Oriente shopping center in Managua, partially destroying a car owned by an official of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The car, which was damaged by the bomb that exploded near the rear of the car is owned by Edulio Ferrey, a Uruguayan financing specialist who works for the IDB mission in this country.

The bomb exploded at 1730 (2330 GMT) in the IDB parking lot. The explosion shook the downtown parking center. Aside from the damage caused by the bomb, three bullet holes were found on the car. The bomb also damaged another car, owned by Camilo Rosales, the architect designer of the Corporacion Plaza Espana complex.

The IDB official told ACAN-EFE at the scene of the explosion that there were no clues as to who placed and detonated the bomb. He added that he had been in Nicaragua for 2 years and was getting ready to leave when the attack happened.

The bomb explosion coincided with the commemoration of the 44th anniversary of the murder of guerrilla leader Augusto Cesar Sandino.

NOVEDADES SCORES VENEZUELA'S PEREZ FOR 'OPPORTUNISTIC' STANCE

PA181629Y Managua NOVEDADES in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 45 PA

[Luis Manuel Martinez article: "Venezuela, O Venezuela!"]

[Excerpts] The first Latin American partner of OPEC and the first beneficiary of the petroleum blackmail affecting the underdeveloped oil importers promised to finance essential programs and contribute to Nicaragua's progress only 1 or 2 years ago. Instead of generous and understanding aid, it continued to exploit us with prices that could not be changed for those clients whose dependence on the crude had become a serious burden.

Afterwards, in a series of showy measures for the audience abroad, it used us as a test case and smokescreen, trying to hide the vices which corrode its urban democracy. When Venezuela lacked fruit, grain and meat because its president had not been able to establish a program of incentives for production, Nicaragua sold it cattle. Its ambassadors made pompous statements about trade and fraternal relations.

Nevertheless, when the tenant of Miraflores Palace needs to show the world his "progressive affiliation, his pathological sensibility, his devotion to human rights," he uses Nicaragua. In Latin America there is no one who can come close to Carlos Andres Perez in hypocrisy and crookedness. In order to diminish his domestic problems and to find emotional issues which will help the election of Luis Pinero, his Democratic Action successor, after his puppet Jaime Lusinchi had been defeated within the ruling party, Carlos Andres discovered a formidable alternative.

He recalled his ambassador, transported by plane two exiles who were never in any danger, and incited the labor federations to take measures which have all the characteristics of economic aggression but whose results are purely theoretical. It is stylish to attack the Somoza government, which "has been in power for 40 years."

Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party has not lost an election in half a century. The spine-chilling tales of repression of the peasants as well as the restrictions on freedom of the press belong to the chapter of what is "tolerable." All the dung, all the moral filth, all the lies have to be dumped on Nicaragua.

And Carlos Andres is hard at work.

Venezuela, O Venezuela!

From the plains of Cantacaro to the dark maneuvering of this man with no sense of history, with no ideological definition, with no principles--an elementary opportunist. How far the distance seems, how painful are the lies told out of cruelty.

They manufactured their strike, they stirred up their strike, and as a result, they use us as a sacrificial goat and a smokescreen, trying to divert the attention of a people who are disgusted with a ruthless administration. In December of this year, when these people will face a choice between the inevitable heir of Carlos Andres and Luis Herrera Campins, the candidate of the Social Christian Party (COPEI), they will seek a ray of light, a breath of fresh air. They will seek to begin again and return to agriculture, to become self-sufficient and to emerge from the false opulence based on budgetary overspending.

Observers of the Caracas political scene state that "misgovernment, excess consumption, superfluous bureaucracy, unjust distribution of wealth which accentuates social inequalities, and the arbitrary manner in which justice is administered are endangering the Venezuelan democratic system." And amidst all this uproar, the movement to socialism, financed by Cuba, is growing like a weed.

Venezuela, O Venezuela!

RED CROSS TO BE PERMITTED TO VISIT PRISONS

PA171542Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1453 GMT 17 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 17 Feb (LATIN)--The Nicaraguan presidential information office has announced in a communique that the government agreed yesterday to a request by the International Red Cross that its delegates be allowed to visit the country's prisons.

According to the communique, President Anastasio Somoza received Latin American Red Cross delegate Sergio Nessi, who gave him a letter with the request signed by Alexander Hay, president of the institution's international committee. The president, the communique added, accepted the request and gave the proper orders to the government and police ministers.

FURTHER MATERIALS ON ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES

Central Army Celebration

PL221955Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Matanzas Province; Col Jose Milian Pino, chief of the central army; and (Anatoliy Anatolovich) have presided over the event held by the central army to mark the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces.

On behalf of the Soviet specialists working in our country, (Anatoliy Anatolovich) made a speech in which he recounted the path traversed by the combatants of the Red Army. He referred to the gradual development attained by the armed forces of the world's first socialist revolution, the might currently possessed by the Soviet Armed Forces and the close ties uniting them with the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. He pointed out the satisfaction felt by the Soviets for the FAR's successes in recent years, which were demonstrated last year in the 60th October strategic maneuvers.

The closing remarks were made by Col Jose Milian Pino, who, in recalling how the Soviet Armed Forces had been founded, stated: The Soviet Army and Navy are the product of the Great October. The emergence of both is closely tied to the name of Vladimir Ilich Lenin.

He referred to the solidary aid being given by the USSR to our country in all fields and particularly to our FAR. Milian Pino expressed the recognition, admiration and affection felt by all FAR members toward the Soviet specialists working in our country and, through them, toward all combatants of the thousand times glorious and heroic Soviet Army.

Granma Province Event

PL222340Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2202 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Granma Province's main event to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Armed Forces was held at the General Milanés polytechnic school of Bayamo City. Maj Gen Sergey (Greschniun) stressed that the creation of the Soviet Army and Navy were indissolubly tied to Vladimir Ilich Lenin and the CPSU. He pointed out that the party has been the real organizer and mover in their successes during those 60 years. He referred to the first great victory of the worker-peasant army in February 1918. And, later, after defeating fascism, he said, its heroic combatants defended October's gains, peace and mankind's progress.

In his closing remarks Maj Lazaro Enrique Sanchez pointed out the internationalism and solidarity demonstrated by the USSR Armed Forces in recent decades.

RODRIGUEZ DECORATES USSR EMBASSY COUNSELOR

PL171355Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 17 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, last night decorated USSR Embassy Counselor (Boris Asonov) with the 20th Moncada Anniversary medal. In a speech at the ceremony, which was held at the protocol hall of the Sierra Maestra hall in Havana, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez stated that the Council of State, in fulfillment of a recommendation from our party's Politburo, had decided to confer the medal as an example of the Cuban people's gratitude to (Boris Asonov) for his outstanding accomplishments.

In his speech (Boris Asonov) stressed that the medal conferred upon him was dedicated to the Soviet Union.

Attending the ceremony were Council of Ministers Vice President Joel Domenech and Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister-chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation, both members of the PCC Central Committee, and Soviet Ambassador Nikita Tolubeyev.

FIDEL MEETS SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARIANS, MOZAMBIQUE BISHOP

Leaders of Parliamentary Groups

FL221230Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, PCC Central Committee first secretary and Council of State president, has received the chairmen of the socialist countries interparliamentary groups, who are holding a consultative meeting in Havana City at the invitation of the National People's Government Assembly. The visitors were accompanied by Blas Roca, Raul Roa and Jose Aranaburo, president, vice president and secretary, respectively, of the National People's Government Assembly.

Attending the meeting with Fidel were the chairmen of the interparliamentary groups from the USSR, GDR, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Mongolia, Korea, Laos and Vietnam. In a cordial and friendly atmosphere the visitors and the Council of State president discussed several topics relating to the activities of the socialist parliamentarians.

Bishop of Mozambique Province

FL221232Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Yesterday Fidel met with Dr Manuel Vieira, bishop of Nampula, Mozambique Province. The conferees, in a cordial atmosphere, discussed questions of interest to the peoples of Mozambique and Cuba.

HAVANA REPORTS TESTIMONY ON PLOT AGAINST CASTRO

PA222005Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[Text] While attending a judicial proceeding in the United States as a witness, Mafia member Vincent Teresa revealed that in the 1960's he participated in a meeting in which plans were made to carry out an attempt against the life of Cuban Council of State President Fidel Castro. He added that the CIA had promised to pay \$4 million for the murder of the leader of the Cuban revolution.

BULGARIAN DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL220150Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev, first deputy defense minister, chief of the Bulgarian People's Army General Staff and member of that country's Communist Party Central Committee, today arrived in Santiago de Cuba.

During the day the delegation, which is visiting Cuba at the invitation of Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, paid a visit to the Siboney farm, the 26 July Museum at the former Moncada garrison and the Abel Santamaria Park.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE LETTER TO PARAGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY

FL201909Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1704 GMT 20 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban party, government and people fraternally salute the 50th anniversary of the Paraguayan Communist Party [PCP], states the message from the PCC Central Committee sent to that fraternal political organization. The message continues by stating that half a century of political struggle under the worst conditions is proof of the tenacity and firmness of the Paraguayan communists in defense of Marxist-Leninist ideas. The document states that some of the best sons of the Paraguayan worker and peasant class, under the banner of socialism, have fallen or remain jailed and that the Stroessner regime's henchmen have caused the disappearance of many others. The message adds that our people rejoice in receiving at the time of this anniversary Comrades Antonio Maidana, Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas, worthy representatives of communist conduct and of all patriots of our continent who are jailed.

The message stresses the stand taken by Maidana, Alcorta and Rojas during their incarceration. The document says that the three were personally subjected to the brutal repression of the Alfredo Stroessner regime by being imprisoned for almost 20 years in that country's jails by that reactionary dictatorship. They firmly kept their revolutionary ideas, for which they struggle with the confidence that despite the repression, state of siege and absence of public freedoms, the PCP and the Guaraní people will continue struggling against the dictatorship.

The message adds: On this occasion, we reiterate our support for so just a struggle, convinced that with the necessary unity and under the banners of democracy, national independence and socialism, the Paraguayan people will finally achieve victory.

The PCC Central Committee message calls for the freedom of all patriots jailed in that country. The document also denounces the disappearance of (Miguel Angel Soler) and (Berlice Villagra), PCP secretariat member and Paraguayan Communist Youth secretary general, respectively.

The message continues by stating: We condemn the mistreatment and abuse suffered by women and children in Paraguayan jails. Despite the recent electoral farce and imperialist support, the Alfredo Stroessner regime will ultimately disappear in the face of the tenacious struggle waged by the Paraguayan people.

PARAGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

FL220050Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Excerpt] Antonio Maidana, chairman of the Paraguayan Communist Party, and his party's Central Committee members Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas today ended a 10-day visit to our country at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee.

DORTICOS ADDRESSES STATE COMMITTEE MEETING

FL220200Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Comrade Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of Ministers, has stated that it cannot be said that an economic activity has been efficient if it has not been governed by technical standards, metrology and quality control. Dorticos said this in his closing remarks at the annual assembly meeting on accomplishments of the State Committee for Standards which was held at the Carlos Fernandez R. Theater of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers building. The main report on the work accomplished in 1977 reflecting the agency's gains and deficiencies was read by Ramon Darias, minister-chairman of the State Committee for Standards.

HAVANA COMMENTARY ON U.S. ARMS SALES, TROOPS ABROAD

FL171300Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Feb 78 FL

[Carlos Mora Herman commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter has authorized the sale of military aircraft to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel in contradiction to his electoral promise to make a maximum reduction in modern arms shipments to other countries and his recent announcement to reduce by 8 percent the sale of North American arms. Sales of North American arms throughout the world is more than a \$100-billion business. From 1973 to 1977 alone, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil received more than \$1.1 billion in North American arms and military equipment, and this year those countries will receive \$500 million worth of Yankee military aid. The Washington government's meddling in the internal affairs of countries in the world has been a constant in U.S. foreign policy, prompted by the combined use of diplomacy and the club. There is a very revealing fact about the seriousness of U.S. military support of regimes which act as promoters for imperialist interests: In recent years 4 tons of uranium and plutonium have mysteriously disappeared in the United States. This has been called the nuclear raw materials flight. There are 25 firms from which materials used in the production of nuclear weapons have been removed. Some of these firms are so important as (Aiken) in South Carolina, (Richland) in Washington, the Los Alamos nuclear laboratories in New Mexico and the (Numac) consortium in the city of Apollo, Pennsylvania.

These flights of nuclear materials had been kept secret until they were brought to the attention of the U.S. public. Last year documents revealing the disappearance of enriched uranium from the (Numac) firm since 1965 were made public. During World War II (Numac) president Solman Shapiro participated in the so-called Manhattan Project, whose objective was to create the atomic bomb. Shapiro maintains close ties with Israeli leaders.

According to investigations, over a period of 10 years 572 lbs of enriched uranium have disappeared from the Apollo firm. This is either a lot or too little. Suffice to say that from 10 to 20 lbs are needed to produce a nuclear explosive device, so that with the quantity which has disappeared, dozens of atomic bombs like the one the United States dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, on 6 August 1945 can be produced. The investigations were kept secret. The affair was covered up. The Washington government decided to keep from public opinion and Congress this serious incident and the finding that the stolen materials had been sent to Israel to produce nuclear weapons there.

According to North American reports, the United States currently has more than half a million military personnel throughout the world. In Europe there are 331,600 North American troops. There are 154,200 in the Pacific and the Far East, 16,000 in Latin America and 15,200 in other areas. In the FRG alone the North Americans have 240,100 men on a war footing. And in reference to Latin America, there are 9,500 in Panama, 3,400 in Puerto Rico and 3,100 in Guantanamo. One must also take into account the Yankee 6th Fleet in Europe with 32,300 men, the 7th Fleet in the Pacific with 36,100, and naval forces in other areas of the world amounting to about 9,000 men.

In Africa North American imperialism has established a siege in cooperation with the most reactionary regimes of the continent and its NATO associates. The Yankees directly or indirectly give military aid to South Africa, Rhodesia, Somalia, Zaire, Morocco, Iran and other countries. They are trying to create a so-called Red Sea security pact, subordinated to NATO and supported by Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Egypt. The United States has 1,100 men at the military base on Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean. Intensive efforts are continuing to create a South Atlantic treaty organization, SATO, with the cooperation of South Africa, Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

All of this constitutes a threat to the Arab and African national liberation movements and an attempt to recolonize Africa. To misinform and hide these domination plans, a campaign is being waged about the presence of Cubans and Soviets in Africa but, as happens to the wolf in the story, one can see his teeth.

RADIO COMMENTS ON IMPERIALIST INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA

FI221535Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Feb 78 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry combatants political information program commentary]

[Text] Imperialism's attempts to prevent revolution in Africa have once again been shown by the aggression against Ethiopia. The Ethiopian nation has begun the stage of true revolution following a lengthy and silent struggle and with the coming to power of the governing group led by Mengistu Haile Mariam. He stated recently that his country is struggling to radically restructure the socioeconomic system and is at the stage of a national democratic revolution, whose goal is to set the foundations to build socialism.

For its clear revolutionary position, for its political definition which characterizes the present Ethiopian process, that nation is the victim of foreign aggression, a victim of expansionist appetites which have been encouraged and supported by the imperialists and reactionary Arab regimes. The leading role of Yankee imperialism, its NATO associates, and the vicious alliance with regimes like Iran and Saudi Arabia to incite Somali aggression against Ethiopia have been disclosed during the conflict itself. North American, British, West German and even Chinese weapons are arriving in great quantities in Somalia by air or sea, going through Iranian, Saudi and Pakistani landing fields and ports.

Even though Ethiopia is the victim, it has consistently reiterated its willingness to resolve the problem through peaceful negotiations and has called on Somalia to act wisely and not allow itself to be led by the fakery which Washington and its NATO acolytes devise to increasingly heat up the situation in the Horn of Africa. Logically, imperialism is interested in inciting the conflict and preventing a peaceful Ethiopian-Somali settlement. Its interest is that there be no understanding between the two neighboring countries, and it is seeking to internationalize the problem.

The imperialists are concerned over the revolutionary process taking place in Ethiopia and, while they carry on a dirty business through the sale and supply of weapons to the aggressors, they are seeking to prevent the Ethiopian people from carrying out a peaceful transformation for a better future. Therefore, the struggle of the Ethiopian people, their determination and their massive incorporation in the defense of their revolution are just. In defining the nature of the Ethiopian struggle, Chairman Mengistu stated a few days ago that the battle being waged by the country has no other objective than the defense of the gains of the people's revolution, maintenance of territorial integrity and state sovereignty. Revolutionary Ethiopia, Mariam stated, is waging a struggle for peace, social justice and socialism.

The imperialists and the Somali authorities are waging a defamation campaign to show that Ethiopia has territorial ambitions in neighboring states. They have invented the threat of an Ethiopian invasion of Somalia. Such tricks are more than transparent. Ethiopia is the victim of an armed aggression provoked by Somali expansionist intentions. In the east alone, some 700 km of its territory was invaded, and in the liberation of the fatherland the Ethiopian people have had to spill blood and give up the lives of many of their sons. The Ethiopian revolutionary struggle is marching faultlessly toward victory, counting on the support of the progressive forces of the world, headed by the socialist community.

In a vain attempt to thwart the Ethiopian revolution, it appears that imperialism has not realized, as Chairman Mengistu has said, that the struggle of its people is an integral part of the liberation movement of all of Africa and the worldwide revolutionary movement--a struggle that is invincible because it has on its side the forces which fight colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism, and against injustice, inequality, exploitation and oppression.

BLAS ROCA SPEAKS AT LAWYER GRADUATION CEREMONY

FL181912Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1722 GMT 18 Feb 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Blas Roca Calderio, National People's Government Assembly president, has spoken at the graduation of lawyers from the University of Havana, which was held at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--Lazard Pena theater. The massive graduation of workers, Interior Ministry--MININT--and Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR--members unanimously agreed to call their graduation the "25th anniversary of the Moncada barracks assault" and "history will absolve me."

Present at the presidium were Council of Minister Vice President Belarmino Castilla Mas, Higher Education Minister Fernando Vecino Alegret, CTC Secretary General Roberto Veiga and MININT Deputy Minister Brig Gen Irving Ruiz Brito, all PCC Central Committee members.

CTC Secretariat member Rosario Fernandez, PCC Central Committee alternate member, read the pledge in the name of the lawyers graduating from the University of Havana. After she read the pledge, she gave it to Blas Roca so that it would be delivered to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, PCC Central Committee first secretary.

In his closing remarks Blas Roca stated that it was an honor and duty for all graduates that the graduation was named after the historic and momentous deed in July 1953 led by Fidel, an excellent, extraordinary and great lawyer, who today is our commander in chief.

Blas exhorted the graduates to continue improving themselves and to always be prepared lawyers and use Marxism-Leninism--the liberating science of humanity--most profoundly as their inspiration. Blas Roca called on the graduates to cooperate to their fullest in perfecting the new laws [words indistinct] for the socialist society. He also called on the graduates to carry out their work to strengthen the institutionalization process being undertaken throughout the nation.

At the ceremony Havana University Law Faculty Dean Gilberto Munoz Valdes expressed the school's satisfaction for the work achieved in the last 2 years in teaching 1,000 lawyers in post graduate courses. The students of highest qualification were awarded at the lawyers evaluation event, which was the largest in the history of Havana University.

LEZCANO CHAIRS MEETING OF CDR NATIONAL DIRECTORATE

FL172019Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The first meeting of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution--CDR--National Directorate, the highest governing body between congresses, opened today in Santa Maria del Mar, Havana City, under the slogan "to comply with the agreements of the First CDR Congress with greater efficiency and quality in our work." CDR national coordinator Jorge Lezcano, PCC Central Committee member, chairs the event along with the rest of the CDR National Secretariat Executive Committee. Also participating at the meeting are the other members of the CDR National Directorate.

The object of this meeting is to study the many important aspects of the organization's internal activities. There will also be a presentation on the results of the work done from the end of last year to the present.

Following approval of the day's agenda, Jorge Lezcano read the Secretariat Executive Committee activities report to the National Directorate for the period October 1977-February 1978. The document was approved unanimously. Also unanimously approved were the organization's work plan for 1978, the regulations and statutes, the governing documents for CDR activities based on the accords of the First Congress, which were among the most debated topics during the meeting's first session.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF PINO DEL AGUA BATTLE MARKED

FL171435Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The 20th anniversary of the Pino del Agua battle was marked in a ceremony held at that location on the Sierra Maestra, 30 kms from the community of Guisa. The closing remarks were made by Brig Gen Orlando Rodriguez Puertas, member of the PCC Central Committee, who referred to the historic significance of that battle.

Prior to the ceremony, 50 youths who have been nominated as candidates for delegates to the 11th [World Youth and Students] Festival reached the top of the mountain after a 20-km horseback ride and a hike on foot to the location of the Sierra Maestra where the battle took place 20 years ago.

In his closing remarks Brig Gen Orlando Rodriguez Puertas pointed out that, among the significant events of our revolutionary process, the Pino del Agua battle is most outstanding because it played an important role in the struggle against tyranny.

CUBAN, KOREAN DELEGATIONS HOLD ECONOMIC MEETING

FL211935Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The fourth session of the Cuban-Korean economic, scientific and technical consultative commission began today in Havana headed by the chemical industry ministers of the two countries, Antonio Esquivel and Won Tong-ku. The session was opened by the Cuban minister, who stated his satisfaction with the meeting between representatives of two peoples who are moving forward united in building socialism and the resultant practice of revolutionary internationalism.

During its stay in Cuba, the Korean delegation headed by Won Tong-ku will tour plants and work centers, primarily in the chemical and iron and steel sectors.

CARICOM MINISTERS TO DISCUSS BELIZE'S FUTURE

FL212320Y Belize City THE REPORTER in English 19 Feb 78 pp 1, 7 a FL

[Text] Foreign ministers of six CARICOM countries are due to arrive in Belize on Tuesday or Wednesday to begin a two-day conference to consider the subject of the independence of Belize.

The meeting has been called by Premier George Price and will be opened by him on Thursday morning, February 23, in the National Assembly Chamber.

The foreign ministers' meeting is Price's answer to the UDP [United Democratic Party] call for a ten-year moratorium on independence. The ten-year period should be used by Belize to develop her economic and other resources and to prepare a credible defence deterrent, the opposition maintains.

But the foreign ministers are expected to echo the statement of the CARICOM prime ministers released last week. This statement called upon the British to speed up the negotiations which would bring on independence for Belize and to co-operate fully with the PUP [Peoples United Party] government.

In Belmopan Premier Price spelled out what he and his party want the British to cooperate in--independence without a moratorium and without surrendering any land to the Guatemalans. A moratorium, he said, would only give the Quats more time to build up their aggression against Belize, neglecting to point out that Belize needs this time to build up her own defence capability even more.

The British position has also crystallized in recent weeks. 'If you want independence that badly', it says, 'then you have to give up some land'. If Belize, on the other hand, decides through a referendum that she does not want to give up any land, Britain would continue to defend the territory just as she would defend a crown colony.

The crucial question is: Do the people of Belize want independence so badly they are prepared to risk almost certain conflict with Guatemala?

Premier Price, who would like to have his independence in the bag before being forced into general elections and who is reported to have a secret deal with Cuba, says 'yes'.

But there are a lot of people, including the thousands who demonstrated in all the district capitals last Wednesday, who say 'no'!

It is a momentous issue, and the public debate will require time--time and careful assessment. But time is the one thing that the premier does not have, and a careful assessment is the last thing he wants.

Price Meets Delegation Heads

FL230205Y Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 23 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Caribbean Community foreign ministers conference met again this afternoon in Belmopan.

The foreign ministers met to consider a working paper while the Honorable Prime Minister George Price exchanged viewpoints with the foreign ministers and heads of delegation. The conference continues tomorrow.

CARIBBEAN LEFTISTS TO FORM ANTI-IMPERIALIST FRONT

FL171635Y Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 12 Feb 78 p 3 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 11 Feb (CANA)--Caribbean leftists are holding discussions aimed at the formation of a region-wide anti-imperialist front, Grenada's opposition leader Maurice Bishop said here today. Mr. Bishop was in Guyana over the past four days in connection with what he said were "political and legal" affairs. In an interview with CANA, he said there was now need for an "anti-imperialist and anti-fascist front" to counter what was seen as a re-assertion of right-wing tendencies in the region.

"There is need for an organised approach by the entire Caribbean movement of the left, a critical need," the leader of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) said.

Mr. Bishop's remarks were supported by another Caribbean leftist, Dominica's Ross Douglas, who arrived Thursday night on a separate mission to inform Guyanese of the situation in Dominica. Mr. Douglas emphasised that a broad-based front was needed, comprising not only Marxists but also "national democratic persons" so as "to defend the gains that have been made and to co-ordinate our activity to keep advancing those gains towards Caribbean nationhood.

"I do not believe that we can remain as isolated as we are and withstand the thrust of United States imperialism in our area," Mr. Douglas said. Mr. Douglas said there was already an "organic" relationship among Caribbean leftist groups, but what was needed was an anti-imperialist regional democratic left which would involve cooperatives, progressive sections of the clergy, voluntary clubs and other organisations.

JAMAICA

FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT CUT BY 67 PERCENT

FL171630Y Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 12 Feb 78 p 1 FL

[Text] After the first ten months of 1977 the external trade deficit stood at \$72 million, having been cut by 67 percent from \$215 million the year before. The external trade deficit is the amount by which imports exceed exports.

Up to October 1977 exports had increased 16 percent to \$546 million and imports had been reduced 10 percent to \$618 million.

The increase in the value of exports "was partly due to the fact that all of these commodities with the exception of bauxite and alumina" now earn more Jamaican dollars due to the devaluation, reports the BOJ [Bank of Jamaica] in its December monthly review.

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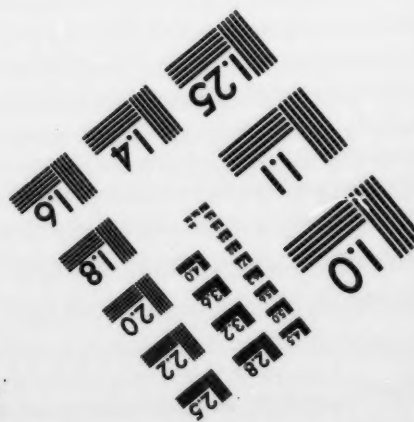
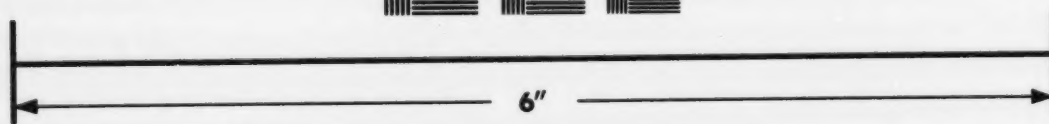
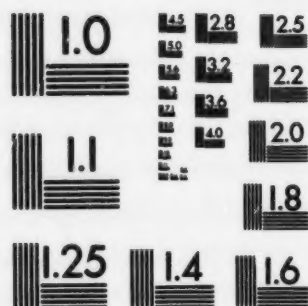
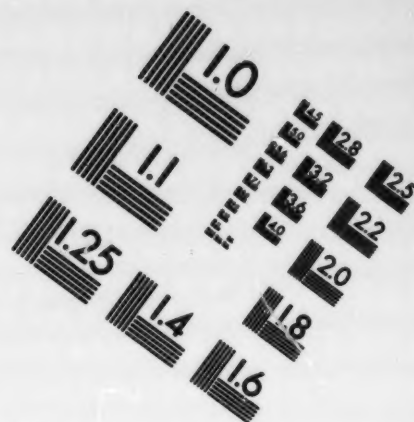
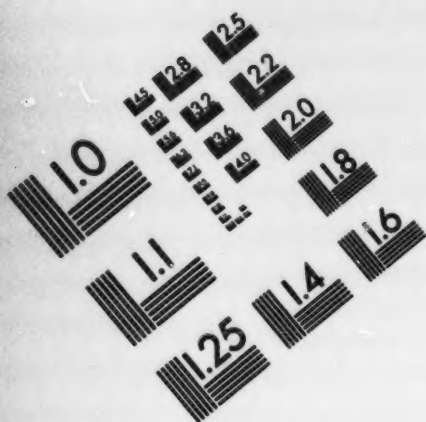
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